

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated July 21, 2011 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 12, 18, and 19 are rejected to by the Examiner. With this response, claim 12 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 12, 18, and 19 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,403,616 to Hattori et al. (hereinafter “Hattori”) in combination with Japanese Patent Publication No. 08-031830 (hereinafter “JP ‘830”) alone or further in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,730,358 to Yamuni et al. (hereinafter “Yamuni) both (a) or (b) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 4,704,002 to Kikuchi et al. (hereinafter “Kikuchi”) further in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,230,619 to Yamazaki et al. (hereinafter “Yamazaki”); and claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Hattori in combination with JP ‘830 alone or further in combination with Kikuchi further in combination with Yamazaki and U.S. Patent No. 4,301,191 to Peek (hereinafter “Peek”). These rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 12 is allowable at least in that this claim recites a combination of elements, including, for example, “hardening the filled resist in the at least one opening of the master by applying an ultraviolet ray to the resist” and “the resist coated on the surface of the supplying roll is directly filled in at least one opening of the master.” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least these features of the claimed invention.

In the claimed invention, the resist is coated on the surface of the supplying roll and then the coated resist is directly filled with the opening of the master to transfer the resist coated on the surface of the supplying roll to the etching layer.

On the contrary, in Yamazaki, the coating material (12) is not coated on the surface of the roller (100). As shown in Fig. 12A of Yamazaki, the coating material (12) is filled on the screen master (11), not coated on the surface of the roller (100). In this structure, the coating material filled on the screen mater is filled in the opening of the screen master (11) by the driving force of the roller (100). That is, in Yamazaki, the coating material is not coated on the surface of the

roller (100) so that the coating material is not directly filled in the opening of the screen master (11) from the surface of the roller (100).

Further, the other cited references do not disclose the supplying roll on which the resist is coated. Thus, the cited references fail to teach or suggest at least “the resist coated on the surface of the supplying roll is directly filled in at least one opening of the master,” which is required by claim 12.

In addition, in the claimed invention, the resist is hardened by UV light. On the contrary, Hattori merely discloses the heat hardening process. The cited references fail to teach or suggest at least “hardening the filled resist in the at least one opening of the master by applying an ultraviolet ray to the resist,” which is also required by claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 and claims 18 and 19, which depend from claim 12, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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